**BEREA CITY COUNCIL \_ REGULAR MEETING \_ JANUARY 21, 2020**

The Berea City Council met in a regular session, Tuesday, January 21, 2020; Mayor Bruce Fraley presiding.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**: J. Davis, D. Rowlette, J. Payne, E. LaDouceur, J. Little, S. Caudill, C. Wilson, R. Terrill

**OFFICIALS:** J. Gilbert, D. Gregory, C. Chasteen, S. Meeks, S. Sandlin, E. Scott, A. Haney, K. Howard, P. Bloom, R. Adams

**INVOCATION:** Jim Davis

**PLEDGE**: Cora Jane Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to approve by: Caudill

Seconded by: Little

Motion to amend by adding opening of bids: Little

Seconded by: Terrill

Vote: All ayes to the amended agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES; JANUARY 7, 2020**

Motion to approve by: Davis

Seconded by: Caudill

Vote: All Ayes.

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS; PUBLIC COMMENT**

Shane Morris, Berea; proposed the city council to create a resolution and a city ordinance to raise awareness concerning the second amendment. He asked the city council to have a look at the suggestions from the literature that he distributed to them this evening, and to consider passing an ordinance for the city, and a resolution to raise awareness of the regulations.

**OPEN BIDS; UTILITY LINE CLEARANCE – UTILITY DEPARTMENT**

Mayor Fraley opened the bids; three (3) bids were received:

1. Nelson Tree Service – declined to bid.
2. Phillips Tree Experts - $450.00 (per unit)
3. Kendell & Company - $465.00 (per unit)

Bids will be referred to the Utility Department for review and recommendation.

**ORDINANCE #01-2020; LITTER ENFORCEMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS; 1ST READING**

Corporate Counsel read the ordinance by title and summary. Council held further discussion regarding the ordinance; LaDouceur requested a work session be held prior to the second reading for clarification on the abatement rules and regulations, enforcement, and fines.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ad Hoc – S. Caudill**

A new Ethics Ordinance has been prepared; council will review it soon.

**Audit & Finance – S. Caudill**

There will be work session at 5:30 p.m., prior to the next council meeting to review the amended 19-20 Budget.

**Economic Development – Jim Davis**

The committee met on Jan. 13th; we received an update from our Director, Donna Angel, the office is back on track and making good progress. We also heard from Valerie Henderson, of the
Small Business Development Center and, Lucas Witt and Lindsey Ransdell from Fortune Solutions. They all brought us to date of the progress that has been made during the past three months.

**Personnel – C. Wilson**

No report.

**Parks – J. Payne**

Next meeting will be Jan. 30th at 5:30 p.m.

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**Public Works – J. Little**

No report.

**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Codes Administrator, Amanda Haney introduced the new Codes Office Administrative Assistant, Melissa Isaacs. Ms. Isaacs began on Monday, January 13th.

The Planning & Zoning Commission is ready to begin work updating the city’s Comprehensive Plan; the plan is required by law to be updated every five (5) years. Three (3) consulting firms will be interviewed by the commission next Tuesday at 5 p.m. The commission will then choose one firm at the first meeting in February; the commission will reach out to the city council, and our citizens for their input prior to adoption of the plan.

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT; D. GREGORY**

* Thoroughbred Engineering Firm has been recommended to receive the contract for the Geo-Technical work at the Tolle Building in the amount of $425,000. Little motioned to award the bid to Thoroughbred Engineering; Caudill seconded to approve; all council voting aye.
* February 10th at 10 a.m. will be the closing time the city will be accepting bids for the property at 103 Meadowlark Drive. Anyone wishing to schedule a viewing of the house can do so by contacting the city clerk’s office.
* The administration met with Waste Connections last week; they will be providing our citizens with better information about their services, including the recycling. The current contract they hold with the city will end on March 1, 2020. Waste Connections is proposing a new rate schedule. A council work session will be held with them to review the proposal.
* The replacement of the guard rails on North and South Dogwood will begin in March.
* Other projects we have going forward is; the Holly Hill Project that will include the Storm Water Drainage Design.
* Ordinances that will be coming up soon are; the Ethics Ordinance, the Amended Budget; a Fire Safety Code; a Surplus Property Ordinance, the MS4 update.
* The Business Development Fest will be held on Thursday, at Berea College in the Alumni Building from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
* The Police and Fire Department’s annual summer camp dates are June 13th- 17th at the city park.
* The Police Department passed their audit with no issues.
* The Public Works Department is continuing with leaf pick-up until the end of the month.

**MAYOR’S COMMENTS:**

* On Friday, January 17th the Governor’s Office of Agriculture Policy Board Director’s gave final approval of $250,000 to the City of Berea for the construction of a multi-use pavilion. This was a successful conclusion to a cooperative effort involving the Berea Tourism Commission, the Berea Farmer’s Market and the City of Berea. Thanks to everyone that has been invoiced in this process. We look forward to beginning the design and construction of this project.
* Thanks to the Berea Chamber of Commerce for hosting the “Mayor’s State of the City Address” on Thursday, Jan. 30th at Churchills, beginning at noon. A second presentation will be held at “The Gathering Place” at Glades Christian Church at 6 p.m. on February 6th.
* The Business Fest will be held in the Alumni Building on the college campus on Thursday, beginning at 11 a.m..; this connects students and our local businesses together.
* This is Cheryl Chasteen’s last city council meeting as our city clerk; he publicly thanked Cheryl for all of her hard work, and dedication to the city and the citizens, throughout her career, and as her service as city clerk. Cheryl has been very helpful to him in his first year in office as mayor and he is grateful to have a knowledgeable professional, positive, and delightful person by his side. He wished her good things in her retirement.

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**COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Terrill** –requested the city attorney to review the papers that Mr. Morris distributed regarding the second amendment and prepare an ordinance or resolution; congratulations to Cheryl, we will miss you!

**Wilson** - wished Cheryl the best in her retirement; she had the pleasure of working with her for many year’s. Robin will do a great job, but Cheryl will be missed.

**Caudill** – thanks to Tourism Commission, and the mayor for having the vision to take the idea of a multi-use pavilion. With the help of the State for funding this project, this will allow us an event space that we currently do not have. Appreciation to the Chamber for their partnership in the Business Fest; we hope many students will attend this event, this is a great opportunity for them. Congratulations to Cheryl; we will miss you greatly; it has been an honor to be around and work with her, she is always helpful and professional; we will really miss you!

**Little** – wished Cheryl the best in her retirement; thanks to for all the help she has given him over the years.

**LaDouceur** – welcome Melissa to the city. She will be not be able to attend the State of the City address due to a prior commitment. Cheryl has always been very professional and the integrity of which she does her job is amazing, and she has enjoyed working side by side her during the council meetings. She reiterated the request to hold a work session on the litter ordinance.

**Payne** – welcome Ms. Isaacs; we will miss Cheryl!

**Rowlette**- congratulations Cheryl on your retirement; she has been a tremendous resource for our city council, our employees and community. She also has been a big help to us at the Chamber when we need to work with the city, she leaves big shoes to fill, but Robin will do a great job He encouraged everyone to attend the business fest on Thursday, and reminded everyone to attend the Mayors State of the City Address, the next Thursday.

**Davis** – welcome Melissa, she will do a good job. Cheryl, congratulations on your retirement, you have been a good ambassador for the city and easy to work with; best wishes! There may still be some spots available at Business Fest on Thursday, please contact him or Donna Angel at city hall.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Payne Motioned, Caudill seconded to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.; all ayes.

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Mayor Bruce Fraley

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 City Clerk